

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Winter 12-11-1992

### Volume 28 - Issue 12 - Friday, December 11, 1992

Rose Thorn Staff

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Dec. 16, 3:30 p.m.

# the Rose Thorn



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Plenty of laughs Saturday

Comedy will take center stage Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Moench Hall Auditorium when Chaney and Mills bring their form of humor to Rose-Hulman during the next program in the Fine Arts Series.

Rose-Hulman students are

admitted to Fine Arts Series programs free of charge.

Chaney and Mills are known for involving the audience and their use of juggling to create a new vaudeville type of humor.

Tickets will be available at the door prior to the show.

### SGA awards November Student Leader of the Month

by Ryan Stafford  
SGA Historian

The Student Government Association recently awarded Ben Nicholson as Student Leader of the month. Ben is a senior mathematics major and is an active member as well as the promotions chairperson for the Student Activities Board.

As a part of the Student Activities Board, he has demonstrated outstanding ability in forming and managing committees and has always shown great responsibility. He is also

a member of the ultimate club and a writing center tutor. Again, SGA congratulates Ben on his achievement and commends him for his efforts.

If you know of someone possessing good leadership qualities, you may nominate him by sending a letter to the S.G.A. president, Jeff Haggerty, Box 172. The letter should address the students leadership attributes and any other outstanding characteristics they exhibit. The student body, faculty, and staff are all eligible to nominate students for this award.

### First SGA Book Exchange a success

by Phil Stolz  
Staff Reporter

The first SGA sponsored book exchange concluded with \$384 worth of used books submitted and purchased by students. A total of 57 books were submitted and those sold were sold at one half of their new price.

Only books being sold for the current quarter were accepted, and those books not being sold were returned to their original owner.

The exchange was organized by SGA Vice President Tom Tyson. Senator Ethan Allen su-

pervised the exchange, which was run by other members of the SGA senate.

Many students failed to take advantage of the new service for several reasons. Many students had already sold their books to the bookstore and, since the service was new, many students either didn't know about the exchange or did not understand the process involved.

The exchange is expected to be held again and its success may be improved by a stronger publicity drive and better location.

### Fellowship money available for graduate study

Students considering the continuation of their educational careers should look to the Department of Energy for a helpful hand. Tens of thousands of dollars are available for students interested in pursuing master's or doctoral degrees in such areas as fusion energy, nuclear engineering, health physics, environmental restoration and waste management, radiation waste management, industrial hygiene and computational science.

Graduate fellowship programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) provide

full payment of tuition and fees, monthly stipends, and the opportunity to gain practical experience at a DOE laboratory.

All programs require the submission of a fellowship application and completion of the Graduate Records Examination. Students must have received their undergraduate degrees in a science or engineering discipline by May or June of 1992.

Selection is based on academic performance, recommendations and a statement of career goals by the applicant.

Fellowship applications are being taken through Jan. 25, 1993, and awards will be announced in May 1993.

### Fowler Park Christmas Walk announced

The tenth annual Christmas walk at Fowler Park Pioneer Village will be held on December 11 and 12 for 6 to 9 p.m.

The public is invited to join the village folk and staff of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department as they step back in time to Christmas 1840. A candle-lit village, blazing hearth fires, the aroma of food cooking, dulcimer music, the Christmas story, and the excitement of the holidays await them.

Mulled cider, hot chocolate, cookies and donuts will be served in the lower level of the barn for a small fee. Stick candy and old fashioned items may be purchased in the General Store.

Admission is free. School buses will transport visitors to the village from the parking lots. Visitors are advised to dress warm and bring a flashlight. For additional information call 462-3391.

## Rose-Hulman students to conduct presentations in local schools

by Phil Stolz  
Staff Reporter

During the 1991-1992 school year, the student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) at Rose-Hulman planned and implemented a program for Rose-Hulman students to visit local elementary school classrooms in an attempt to promote interest in math, science, engineering and education in general. The program has received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from the 4th, 5th and 6th grade teachers involved with the program.

Phillip Cornwell, the Rose-Hulman ASME faculty advisor, coordinated the program which involved the participation of over 40 mechanical engineering students here at Rose-Hulman whose combined efforts managed to reach approximately 2000 students in the Vigo County school system.

This year the program will be continued through the efforts of around 50 mechanical engineering students at Rose-Hulman. It was decided last year to recruit students from the Mechanical Engineering Department since the student chapter of ASME was doing the planning for the program. However, this year the program will not be limited to mechanical engineering students only and anyone interested in becoming involved with this program should contact Cornwell.



The Rose Chapter of ASME is once again coordinating a popular program to put students in area elementary schools. Two students are seen here interacting with children in the classroom.

The program involves three basic parts. The first part deals with a brief introduction to the field of engineering and an explanation of what engineers do. The second part involves some demonstrations illustrating scientific principles and/or contests where students are required to work in teams. The last part of the program entails a question and answer period.

Cornwell has organized the material used for the presentation so that the effort required of the engineering student giving the presentation will be minimized. A list of demonstrations and instructions on performing them are available to the presenter so that students do not have to create

a program from scratch on their own.

Cornwell hopes that the children are able to leave the presentation with three basic things. First, he hopes that they will have a better understanding of what an engineer is and what they do. Secondly, he hopes that the students will understand why the subjects of science and math are important. Lastly, Cornwell hopes that the students will have a greater awareness of the importance of a good education.

A training session will take place right after Christmas break for all students interested in becoming involved with the program. The presentations will then take place through the spring quarter.

## Adam Kluemper awarded J.B. Wilson scholarship



Adam Kluemper, left, chats with J. Ben Wilson (CE, '27) upon receipt of the J.B. Wilson Consulting Engineering Scholarship. Wilson founded the scholarship to encourage students to pursue a career in consulting engineering.

by Jennifer Rozzi

From social organizations to professional experience, Adam Kluemper of Washington, Indiana, believes he has taken the proper steps to prepare himself for a career as a consulting civil engineer. As a student at Rose-Hulman, Kluemper has been president of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and activities director of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

Off campus, Kluemper's eyes were opened to the exciting world of engineering last summer as an intern in the engineer's office for the city of Terre Haute.

"I like to develop myself professionally to make myself a bet-

ter person," says Kluemper, who is a senior civil engineering major at Rose-Hulman. "I have a sense of pride if I do something that broadens my overall experience."

The hard work paid off with Kluemper being awarded the distinguished J.B. Wilson Consulting Engineering Scholarship for the 1992-93 academic year. The \$1,000 award is given to an outstanding Rose-Hulman student enrolled in the college's consulting engineering program.

Involvement in ASCE and working for the city of Terre Haute helped Kluemper appreciate the engineering profession. During the summer, he assisted with construction and repair inspection,

traffic studies, storm water and sanitary system management and the fielding of complaints from Terre Haute residents.

"The internship showed me that I've got more things to learn about engineering. There are on-the-job matters that you can't ever learn in the college classroom," says Kluemper, son of Jack and Sharon Kluemper and a 1989 graduate of Washington Catholic High School. "There are a lot of non-engineering matters that go into being an engineer." Now, Kluemper is ready to accept the challenge as a professional engineer. He is expected to earn his degree in May.

"I'm ready to get out and start doing something concrete," he said.



## Opinion

## Holidays on the asphalt asylum

by Paul Sigler  
Thorn Columnist

Just before I passed I-76, I saw her again. She drove a red Toyota Corolla — possibly an '86. She really wasn't bad looking at all — even with a heavy scowl obscuring her dark, young features. And, by then, I knew that look pretty well, for I had seen quite a bit of her in the last hour or so. Sometimes it seemed like she was orbiting me. The cycle was pretty simple. She'd pass me on the right, cut back over to the left lane, then zip on down into a huge mess of traffic I had no desire to get involved in. Soon, a snarl would develop in the passing lane, and I'd watch her hateful mask intensify as I slowly drifted past.

The entire population of Columbus moves with the holidays as the mighty population of Ohio State evaporates, then rushes back in a surge that spills over onto every

major highway in Ohio. It gets to the point that sometimes getting to Cleveland is more convenient if one goes via West Virginia (provided one didn't stop there to ask directions). Yet it isn't really the congestion that makes the trip such a living hell. The highways are designed for traffic of a similar magnitude, and if everyone used them properly, there wouldn't be that much of a problem.

Holiday driving, however, brings out the worst in us, regardless of how reasonable and imperturbable we usually are. After all, driving is a very personal thing. When someone cuts us off, it isn't so much a dangerous driving technique as it is a personal insult — a slap in the face; a proclamation that screams: "I am more important than you, slimeball, and I want to be HERE!" We'll ignore it once. The second time, we'll bite our lip and

say nothing. On the third time, only the most restrained of us can limit themselves to muttering an expletive under their breath. And the fourth — hell, by the fourth time, even Methodist preachers are screaming out the window and popping the bird at anything that moves.

The problem with holiday driving is the huge clash of personalities compounded by the mental fatigue of watching a continuous stream of white lines for seven hours. And, quite frankly, the more I think about it, the more inclined I am to fly.

Let me show you why. Say we're all out Christmas shopping the day after Thanksgiving — all 250 million of us. And say there's a big, burly idiot shouldering his way through the crowd to get at the new Genesis games before they're all gone. He does so rather rudely (is there any other way to actually get something done in a

crowded department store?), and quite a few people get annoyed. They want to say something to him — to put the bumbling fool in his place. But they don't. He's too big — too intimidating for them to risk a confrontation. He passes on through and gets his Sega games, and although not everybody's happy about it, everyone's still alive, and conflict has been avoided. Perhaps it isn't just, but at least it's safe.

That same situation appears on our roadways all the time during the holidays. The only difference is that now the meek and mild-mannered shopper is behind the wheel of a two-ton Buick. There's a bit less intimidation now — Mr. Burly no longer seems so big, especially when he's driving a Geo; a car so small that they junk them using pop-can compactors. The scary fact is that cars, like handguns, make great equalizers. And both make for fairly dangerous toys.

So, as human nature takes its toll on our weakened sanity during the long drive, there comes a point where the game cartridges don't seem that important any more — not as important as running that brain-damaged gorilla off the damn road and SMASHING HIS HEAD IN WITH A PIPE WREN...

Sorry. Flashback.

Cross-country driving is actually a great experience when the roads are deserted. But, unfortunately, when we head home for Christmas, they won't be. Getting frustrated and being a rude and obnoxious driver because of it certainly doesn't help matters, and it could prove to be fatal. So drive smart — or perhaps I should say drive CALMLY. Oh — and if you see my satellite — you know, the chick in the red Corolla? — give her a message for me, will ya?

Lighten up.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the article printed in last week's issue of The Thorn concerning homosexuals in the military. After reading the article I felt compelled to write a letter stating why I believe that there should not be a ban on homosexuals in the military.

One of my good friends once told me that I would never understand discrimination. She said that as a heterosexual white male I would never have anyone doubt my ability to do a job because of who I am or what I look like. I believe that she is right; I may never understand what it means to have my ability doubted because of some aspect of my character that I can't control. So are we assuming that homosexuals lack the ability to be good soldiers based on their sexual preference? I hope not.

Mr. Wallace points out that the military does not actively search for homosexuals. While this may be true, just because

the military does not actively seek out homosexuals does not mean that they are not discriminating against them. Is it not discrimination that they have to keep their lives carefully guarded lest someone find out that their sexual preference doesn't match that of the "ideal" soldier?

As for the argument that it would make heterosexual soldiers uncomfortable, would this be akin to how women and minorities in the military feel now? In society in general? Since when do heterosexual males have the right to feel more "comfortable" than everyone else? Does anyone honestly believe someone would sexually assault them while they were in the shower? In fact, the cartoon appearing with last week's column is probably a more accurate depiction of problematic sexual behavior in the military. The cartoon says that homosexuals shouldn't be allowed in the military because they have a tradition of events like "Tailhook" to maintain. When was the last time a story about a homosexual harassing other soldiers made the news?

Mr. Wallace also states that homosexuals are a threat to our national security. I still fail to understand this point, and he is not the first person to make it. I have heard this comment on more than one occasion and still can't understand. Are homosexuals going to be blackmailed into giving away secrets because they don't want others to find out? Couldn't this be alleviated by not throwing someone out of the military when they are found to be homosexual? A far greater security risk is possibly being taken now, by forcing the homosexuals who presently serve in the military to hide their sexual preference. Without the constant fear of banishment from the military for being "discovered," it seems as if homosexuals would be less of a "threat to national security" by allowing them to openly declare their sexual preference.

Lastly, I would like to address the issue of morale in the military. I have heard it argued that allowing homosexuals in the military would destroy morale. I would be willing to bet that these same arguments were used when it was debated whether or not to allow women

and blacks to join. The military seems to have survived severe morale problems in the past (Vietnam). Is the military so fragile as to be shaken by admitting that people can be different?

Sincerely,

Ben Nicholson and friends

Dear editor:

I was shocked to hear that Dr. Sullivan of the Computer Science Department has been given notice that his teaching position will be terminated next fall. The reason given for this action is a need to cut the CS budget by 20 percent.

This news is hard for me, as a CS major, to accept. First of all, I think that Dr. Sullivan is a fine professor. I have already had him for several courses and learned a great deal from him in all of them. I rank him among the best professors that I have had here at Rose. He knows his area very well and has always been very willing to help me when I have needed it.

Besides losing a very good teacher, I feel that the loss of Dr. Sullivan will have a very adverse affect on the CS department. I feel that the current number of CS professors is already too low. The loss of Dr. Sullivan would leave only four professors in the CS Department. In addition, Dr. Sullivan is in charge of keeping the CS computer network running. The remaining professors in the department will have to take over Dr. Sullivan's courses and the running of the network when he leaves. This added load to the CS professors can only lead to a lesser quality education for the students. If I feel that the quality of my education is going to deteriorate too much, I will certainly consider transferring to another school.

Even if you are not planning on taking any CS courses during your stay at Rose, I think that you should still be concerned about this situation. My understanding is that other departments are also facing budget cuts. I have heard that four other professors have been given notices as well.

The student body should also be concerned about the way

that the administration of Rose-Hulman has handled itself. I had to hear about Dr. Sullivan's situation through other students that happened to know of it. If the school is having serious financial problems that could negatively affect our educations, I feel that the administration should be open and honest about it.

I am very disappointed that I had to hear of this situation through the "grapevine" instead of where it should have come from, President Hulbert. He should come forward and give us enough information so that we as students can be well informed to make a decision concerning our locations of study next year.

I propose that the school look at other places to save money or find ways to acquire new money instead of letting professors go. Without professors, in my opinion, it is awfully tough to have a quality institution for higher education. Surely there are alumni of the CS Department that would donate money to the school if they heard how their former department was being destroyed. If no one will donate money, then maybe we should look at other positions to eliminate besides teaching positions. I do not mean to sound negative about our fine, hard-working residence hall staff, but I for one would be willing to make my own bed and dump my own trash can in order to save the jobs of the ones who teach us in the classrooms.

I'm sure money could be saved in other areas as well. For example, I believe that we as students would be just as well off if we had fewer entertainers on campus, such as the recent hypnotist. The money used to hire these people could be used to better our education level. My point is that there has to be other solutions besides the ridding of our fine professors. If not, my guess is that Rose is on the verge of bankruptcy.

I have no idea what other changes are being planned for next year. I feel that we as students should demand some answers from the administration and work together to save the jobs of Dr. Sullivan and the other professors. This is our school, and we should demand the very best education from it. You know as well as I do how

much we pay to come here. If the quality of education drops we would be just as well off up the river at Purdue, a much cheaper school. If the administration does not act to correct its mistakes, I call for the student body, along with the student government, to start a massive campaign to save our school.

One possible action is to let alumni know how our school is being run into the ground, and maybe they will put pressure on Dr. Hulbert and the administration to do what is right. If you have serious concerns about these problems, you should write letters to the editor and to the members of our administration. We don't have much time, so it is important that we act now.

Sincerely,

Tony Erwin

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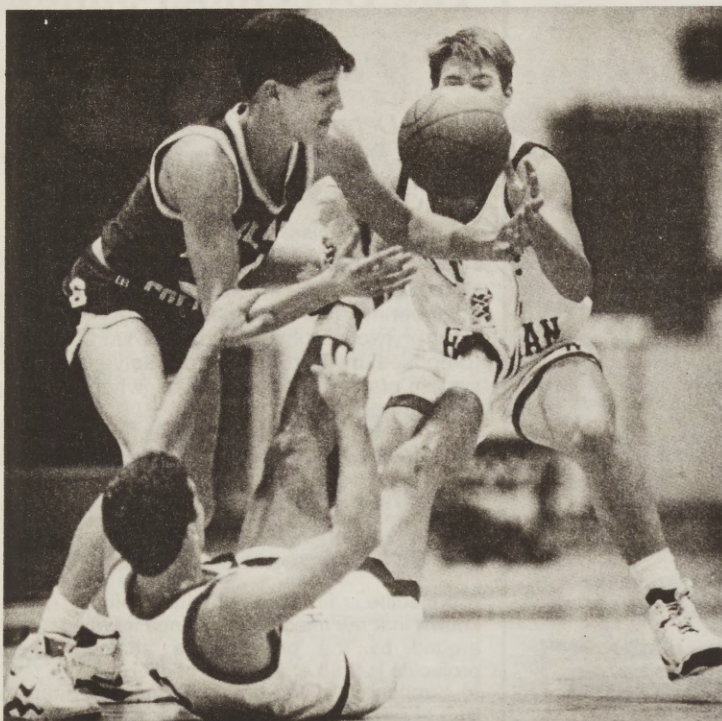
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The Rose Thorn welcomes letters or comments from readers. Articles, ideas, and announcements are also desired. In view of length constraints, we reserve the right to limit the lengths of comments and use excerpts from letters. All submitted material must be signed. All material should be submitted the Monday prior to publication.



## Sports

# Cagers take Rose Invite once again



Scott Woods (on the floor) and Scott Beach (standing) sacrifice themselves for a precious turnover. This kind of determination has resulted in a 7-1 record so far this year.

by Jim Broskow  
Sports Editor

The Engineers sealed a Rose-Hulman Invitational Championship once again last Saturday afternoon with a 71-63 victory over Marian College. This was the 15th victory of the last 16 games Rose has played in the tournament. Friday night they defeated Upper Iowa University 54-50 to put themselves in Saturday's title game.

Scott Woods led the floor in scoring in both games, with 17 points on Friday, and 20 on Saturday. As a result of his performance, he was named the tournament MVP. But obviously Woods hasn't won the games by himself. Fellow all-ICAC guard Scott Beach added fourteen points and seven rebounds, and was 7 of 7 from the free throw line in the game against Marian. Sophomore center Chris Wheatley followed Woods in scoring in the title game with 18 points. Senior Forward Corey Ottens continued to lead Rose in rebounding with 10 in the game.

The fire didn't stop for the

Engineers after the weekend. Monday they picked up the ball again, routing Principia 84-49. Woods once again lead the team in scoring with 22, including three 3-point field goals. Beach became the 19th player in the school's history to score over 1,000 points. The game gave a lot of players to get some experience. 13 out of the 14 players on the Rose squad got to play. The game was Rose's fourth victory in a row, and lifted the team's record to 6-1 this season.

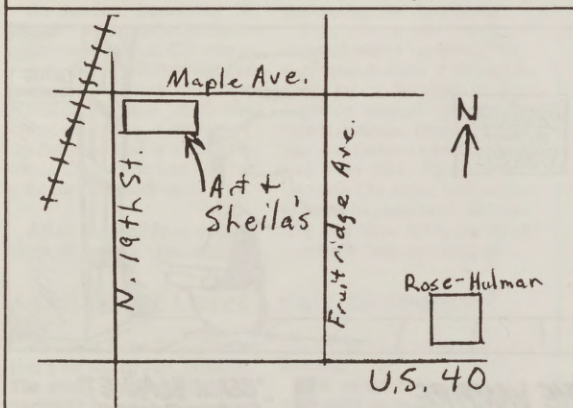
The Engineers take the court again tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. as Blackburn College visits Shook Fieldhouse. The Beavers are 1-6 this year, and have only one senior in the lineup. Rose gets a rematch against Centre College on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The Colonels are 3-0 this season, and handed Rose their only defeat of the year. Centre is a former conference rival of Rose-Hulman, and has defeated the Engineers the last 14 times the teams faced each other. A victory in this match-up would be helpful for Rose in NCAA rankings and selection for the post-season tournament.

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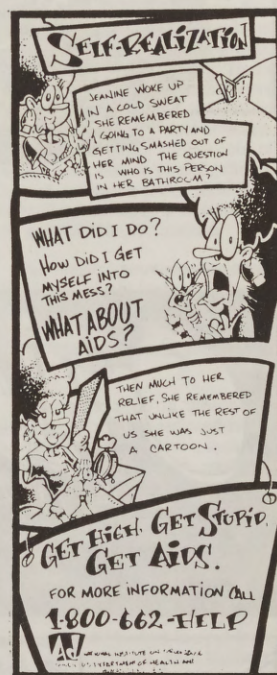
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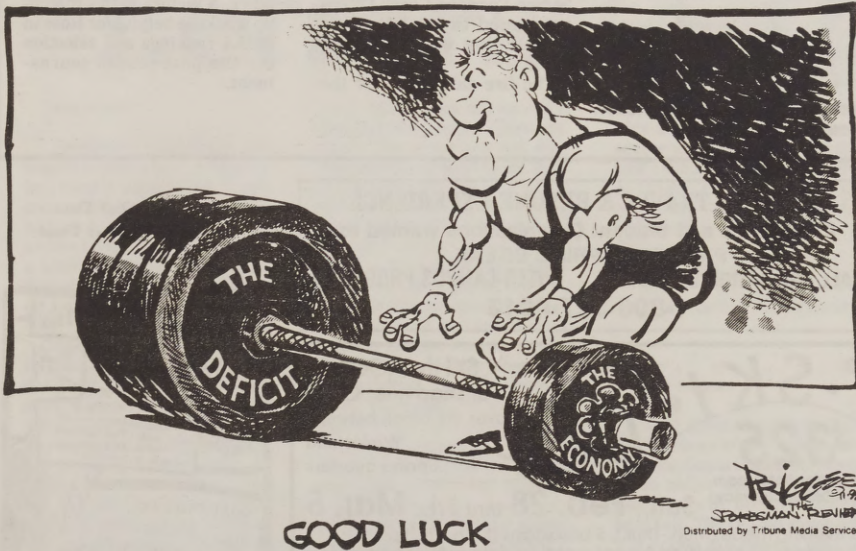
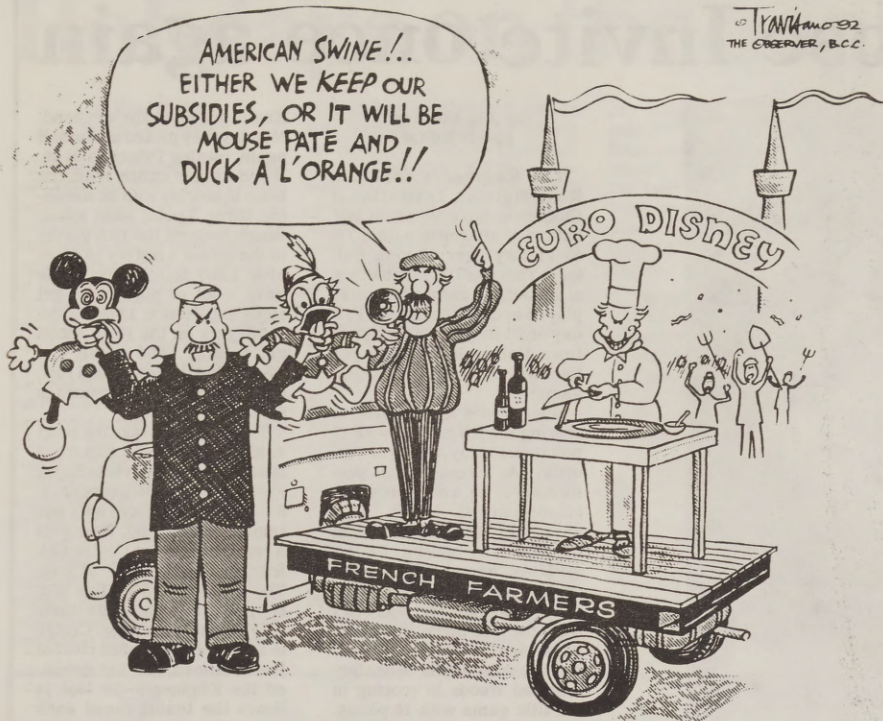
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Comics



## The December-January Problem

Nacer Abrouk  
Department of Mathematics  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
Terre Haute, IN 47803 USA

The winner of the November problem is John Haraguchi, from the Department of Electrical engineering. The December-January Problem consists of two parts. Each part is worth \$5. Part A (proposed by Bart Goddard): Solve the following system of differential equations, where  $a$  is a given non-zero constant.

$$\begin{aligned}x'(t) &= ax(t)\cos(t) + ay(t)\sin(t), \\ y'(t) &= ax(t)\sin(t) - ay(t)\cos(t),\end{aligned}$$

### Part b (proposed by John Rickert):

A projectile is fired with an initial velocity  $v$ . It is well known that the maximum distance traveled over level ground by the projectile is attained when the projectile is fired at an angle of  $45^\circ$ .

a) Suppose that the projectile must be fired over a wall of height  $w$ . Find the angle which will maximize the distance beyond the wall that the projectile may travel.

b) Suppose that the projectile starts at height  $b$  and is fired over the wall from part (a). Find the angle maximizing the distance beyond the wall traveled by the projectile.

